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As I Remembered a Time Less Near

Suzanne Shenk
University of the Pacific

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A S I REMEMBERED A TIME LESS NEAR

Suzanne Shenk, Senior
English & Art History

To Gary Snyder

Burning pines roast the air with smoke-veiled
Seduction, bitter as apple cider
Embalming the soul, and
Molasses thickening the cracks of the mind.

Trees dipped in sun-palettes are
Sensational carnivals of color,
And I can't remember things I once read.

Sedated, amidst a drone-hum
I didn't wake for days.

Months have passed now, and I wait for the griffins
To herald November in again
For she is never crystalline
But is a murmur, muted by the fury of cavernous years.

We were all born inside a star made in November
And you, my friend, have just forgotten.
Still I treasure the absent memory of our haven
And await its sheltered hearth once more.

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